

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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PM-03 /083 W

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R 300240Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0676

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 0519

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NP

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REF: (A) STATE 02151

(B) KATHMANDU 3556

1. SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE REVIEWS USG NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN NEPAL AND ANALYZES HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD AS REQUIRED FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT. THIS REPORTING REPRESENTAS A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY

2. SECTION A. NEPAL RECEIVES NO ASSISTANCE BILATERALLY FROM THE NARCOTICS APPROPRIATIONS UNDER THE FAA. DURING FY75 FOUR POLICE TRAINEES WERE SENT TO THE US UNDER SECTION 482 MONIES CENTRALLY FUNDED IN WASHINGTON. TWO OFFICERS ATTENDED THE IPA POLICE MANAGEMENT COURSE WITH NARCOTICS ORIENTATION AND TWO THE EIGHT-WEEK DEA NARCOTICS COURSE. RESPONSIBILITY FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES RESIDES WITH AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DCM. NO MISSION UNCLASSIFIED

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OFFICER DEVOTES MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF HIS TIME TO

NARCOTICS MATTERS.

3. SECTION B. SINCE THE MISSION DID NOT SUBMIT A DETAILED SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT (REF B) IN MID 1974, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUMMARIZES SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NARCOTICS AREA OVER THE FULL CALENDAR YEAR 1974. MUCH OF THE SAME INFORMATION WAS ALSO PROVIDED IN CLASSIFIED FORM IN KATHMANDU'S 4661 TRANSMITTING THE NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR NEPAL AND IN THE EMBASSY'S RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES (KATHMANDU 4650).

4. (A) SUMMARY: DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD THERE WERE FEW MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT'S NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS. DRAFT CONTROL LEGISLATION WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED WITH UN ASSISTANCE IN LATE 1973 WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NEPALESE PARLIAMENT IN ITS SUMMER SESSION OF 1974 BUT WAS NOT VOTED ON BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF A PROHIBITION ON THE PRODUCTION OF CANNABIS ON THE NEPALESE FARM POPULATION. HOWEVER, THE NEPALESE CONTINUED TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN UPGRADING THE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES OF THEIR INVESTIGATIVE DEPARTMENTS. FOUR POLICE OFFICERS WERE SENT FOR TRAINING IN THE U.S. AND THE CUSTOMS DIRECTORATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ACCEPTED A USG PROPOSAL FOR IN-COUNTRY AND US TRAINING IN CY75. LICENSING RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED ON THE PRODUCTION OF GANJA IN SOUTHERN NEPAL, BUT ILLEGAL PRODUCTION ALMOST CERTAINLY CONTINUES AS DOES THE HARVESTING OF WILD CANNABIS IN THE WESTERN HILLS. THE MISSION HAS NOTED AN INCREASE IN THE AVAILABILITY OF HASHISH IN THE KATHMANDU BAZAAR.

5. (B) ABUSE: ALTHOUGH THERE IS SOME USE OFGANJA BY NEPALESE FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES, CONSUMPTION OF NARCOTICS IN NEPAL IS PRIMARILY ON THE PART OF TOURISTS, PARTICULARLY YOUTHS. THERE HAS, HOWEVER, ALSO BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE USE OF HASHISH BY THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE WESTERNIZED NEPALESE ELITE. THERE IS LITTLE OFFICIAL INTEREST IN THIS PROBLEM AND NO DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY OPERATE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MISSION HAS BEEN UNABLE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO INTEREST THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IN DRUG ABUSE PAMPHLETS FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

6. (C) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING: THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION OF CANNABIS IN THE SOUTHERN TERAI AREA HAS BEEN REDUCED AS A RESULT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF A BAN ON PRODUCTION. THERE ARE NO AVAILABLE STATISTICS ON ILLEGAL ACREAGE OF CULTIVATED CANNABIS, BUT SOME DIMINUTION HAS UNDOUBTEDLY

TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE LICENSING OF PRODUCTION WAS TERMINATED IN 1975 AND TOBACCO HAS REPLACED CANNABIS AS A CASH CROP IN SOME OF THESE AREAS. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE HARVESTING OF WILD CANNABIS IN THE WESTERN HILLS. THERE HAS BEEN A NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN THE PRODUCTION OF PROCESSED HASHISH (HASHISH OIL) IN THE KATHMANDU VALLEY, ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN FOR EXPORT PURPOSES. THERE IS NO ILLICIT PRODUCTION OF OPIATES OR PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS.

7. (D) TRAFFICKING TRENDS: ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE EMBASSY BY DEA AND NEPALESE POLICE OFFICIALS, THE DESTINATIONS FOR HASHISH AND HASHISH OIL EXPORTED FROM NEPAL ARE THE US AND CANADA, WESTERN EUROPE AND AUSTRALIA. MOST HASHISH IS EXPORTED EITHER BY AIR FROM KATHMANDU OR OVERLAND THROUGH INDIA WHERE IT IS FORWARDED VIA BOMBAY OR CALCUTTA TO WESTERN DESTINATIONS. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN A SMALL AMOUNT OF HASHISH SENT OUT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL POSTAL CHANNELS. THE EMBASSY HAS BECOME AWARE OF SOME 15 AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AS ARE A NUMBER OF CANADIANS, AUSTRALIANS AND INDIANS.

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8. (E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION: THE GON HAS COOPERATED EXTENSIVELY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INCB AND UNFDAC. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS VISITED NEPAL IN 1974. A UN OFFICIAL ALSO HELPED PREPARE FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE EXISTING DRAFT LEGISLATION WHICH HE HAD SUBMITTED TO THE GON IN LATE 1973. THE GON PARTICIPATES ON A LOW KEY BASIS IN A NUMBER OF REGIONAL NARCOTICS COMMITTEES UNDER ECAFE AND COLOMBO PLAN AUSPICES. ALTHOUGH MOST TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS GOODS IS VIA INDIA, AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THERE IS LITTLE DIRECT COOPERATION BETWEEN NEPALESE AND INDIAN OFFICIALS, IN PART REFLECTING THE STRAINED POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NEPAL IS STILL NOT A SIGNATORY TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION.

9.

(F) EMBASSY AND HOST GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES: THROUGH-OUT 1974 EMBASSY OFFICERS MADE A NUMBER OF DEMARCHE TO GON OFFICIALS FOCUSING ON THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHES TO THE EARLY PASSAGE OF EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS LEGISLATION. EMBASSY OFFICERS STRESSED THE PRIORITY WHICH THE USG GIVES TO CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORTS HAVE INCLUDED THE INTERVENTION OF THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE NEPALESE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION, IN LATE NOVEMBER THE SECRETARY'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR NARCOTICS AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE, VISITED NEPAL AND REVIEWED US PROGRAMS WITH SENIOR GON POLICE AND FINANCE MINISTRY OFFICIALS. THE DEA OFFICER BASED IN NEW DELHI ALSO VISITED THE POST FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH POLICE COUNTERPARTS AND A TWO-MAN CUSTOMS TEAM VISITED KATHMANDU TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING PROGRAM UNDER CUSTOMS AUSPICES IN CY75. AS A RESULT OF THESE VARIOUS EFFORTS, POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMS WERE CARRIED OUT, UNDER WHICH FOUR OFFICERS ATTENDED IPA AND DEA COURSES. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR AN IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAM FOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN MARCH 1975. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT AT LEAST TWO CUSTOMS OFFICERS WILL PARTICIPATE IN CUSTOMS TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE US IN FEBRUARY 1975. BECAUSE OF POLITICAL CONCERNRS RELATING TO THE LACK OF CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION MEASURES, NARCOTICS LEGISLATION WAS NOT PASSED IN 1974. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM SENIOR GON OFFICIALS THAT PASSAGE IS CONTINGENT ON THE INITIATION OF A UN PILOT INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AND THAT FINAL ACTION IS UNLIKELY BEFORE THE SUMMER OF 1975. THERE CONTINUES TO BE A DEGREE OF SENSITIVITY IN THE GON TO DIRECT USG PRESSURE ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EMBASSY HAS INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UN'S ROLE AND ENCOURAGED IT TO TAKE

A LEADING POSITION IN EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE THE NEPALESE
TO TAKE ACTION IN NARCOTICS CONTROL MATTERS.

10. (G) ENFORCEMENT: IN THE ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE
LEGISLATION THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR IMPRISONMENTS RESULTING
FROM NARCOTICS RELATED ARRESTS. NEPALESE CUSTOMS CONTINUE
TO SEIZE SMALL QUANTITIES OF HASHISH AND THOSE FROM WHOM
THE SEIZURES ARE MADE ARE USUALLY DEPORTED FROM THE COUNTRY
AND SUBJECT TO FINES OF UP TO \$100. THERE WERE FOUR
AMERICAN CITIZENS ARRESTED ON HASHISH OR HASHISH OIL RELATED
CASES IN 1974. ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT TOTAL
SEIZURES IN 1974 WERE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 LBS OF ALL
CANNABIS DERIVATIVES.

11. (H) INCOME SUBSTITUTION: AS INDICATED IN PARA (F)
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ABOVE, THE UN IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR
INCOME SUBSTITUTION IN THE WESTERN HILLS. THE UNDP HOPES
THAT THE GON WILL SUBMIT A PRECISE AND DETAILED REQUEST
TO THE LOCAL RESIDENT UN REPRESENTATIVE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE AND THAT A PILOT PROGRAM WILL BE UNDERWAY IN THE
COURSE OF THE CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR. IN THE TERAI AREA
OF NEPAL THE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE SOME EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE
THE GROWTH OF TOBACCO AS A REPLACEMENT CASH CROP IN
AREAS WHERE LEGAL PRODUCTION IS NOW BANNED.

12. (I) TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION: THERE ARE
NO TREATMENT OR REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN NEPAL
SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. TWO PRIVATE
MISSIONARY GROUPS, WITH AMERICAN YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING,
RUN BOARDING HOUSES AT WHICH SOME REHABILITATION WORK IS
CARRIED ON. THERE ARE NO DRUG ORIENTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

13. PROGRAM SUBMISSION: THE MISSION HAS SUBMITTED NO
REQUEST FOR A BILATERAL PROGRAM IN THE AREAS OF
ENFORCEMENT, INCOME SUBSTITUTION OR TREATMENT AND REHABILI-
TATION. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT THERE
WILL BE A SMALL, BUT CONTINUING, NUMBER OF POLICE AND
CUSTOMS OFFICERS ATTENDING COURSES IN THE US. CURRENTLY
THE NEPALESE HAVE OUTSTANDING INVITATIONS FOR TWO OFFICERS
IN EACH CATEGORY, IN ADDITION TO THE IN-COUNTRY CUSTOMS
PROGRAM SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1975. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT
VIP TOURS, FOR WHICH BASIC APPROVAL HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN,
WILL BE ARRANGED FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND
THE INSPECTOR GENERAL IN CHARGE OF THE NEPALESE POLICE.
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